



CAMBRIDGE HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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Bruce A. Irving, *Chair*; Susannah Barton Tobin, *Vice Chair*; Charles Sullivan, *Executive Director*
William Barry, Robert G. Crocker, Joseph V. Ferrara, Chandra Harrington, Jo M. Solet, *Members*
Kyle Sheffield, *Alternate*

October 13, 2017

To: Members of the Harvard Square Conservation District Study Committee
Interested Citizens

From: Charles Sullivan

Re: Preliminary Meeting Schedule

An organizational meeting of the Harvard Square Conservation District Study Committee will be held on Thursday, October 19 from 6:00 until 7:30.

The Study Committee has been appointed to evaluate the effectiveness of the Harvard Square Conservation District and to consider amendments to the Council Order that established it in 2000. The session on October 19 will kick-off the process with an introduction to historic preservation laws and procedures and a presentation on the jurisdiction and history of the Conservation District. We will also establish meeting procedures and agree on a schedule for future meetings.

The attached preliminary meeting schedule outlines the topics to be covered over the six or seven meetings. I hope to conclude the study next spring with a recommendation to the Cambridge Historical Commission, which will hold a public hearing before making its recommendation to the City Council.

The background materials include the enabling ordinance for conservation districts, Ch. 2.78, Article III of the City Code; the final report of the original Harvard Square Conservation District Study Committee (2000); the Council Order establishing the district; a five-year report on the district's effectiveness (2005); a guide to permitting in the district; and the chapter on the history of Harvard Square from the Commission's recent book, *Building Old Cambridge: Architecture and Development* (2016).

This notice and the background materials are being distributed to all those who expressed an interest in serving on the committee; they are also available on the Commission's website at <http://www.cambridgema.gov/CityCalendar/view.aspx?guid={5AE3AD08-F234-4AE6-AEA3-B7B03E2E62C9}>. All meetings will be open to the public, whose participation is welcomed.

Harvard Square Conservation District Study Committee

Preliminary Meeting Schedule – Dates TBD

Topics to be discussed (see Agenda)

October 19, 2017	Purpose and objectives of the study Study procedures Introduction to historic preservation law National Register Historic Districts, M.G.L. Ch. 40C Conservation districts and landmarks – 2.78, Art. III Easements Harvard Square Conservation District Objectives Establishment and history Open Meeting Law and Conflicts of Interest Public comment
November TBD	Saturday walking tour: Harvard Square history and challenges
November TBD	Harvard Square Overlay District and Advisory Committee Harvard Square Conservation District Jurisdiction Track record Public comment
December TBD	Harvard Square Conservation District Goals and guidelines Public comment
January TBD	Harvard Square Conservation District Goals and guidelines Boundaries Public comment
February TBD	Harvard Square Conservation District Amendments Ch. 2.78, Art. III Amendments Public comment
March TBD	Discussion of proposed amendments Public comment

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